

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY (OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES)

DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS VANNESS
BENTLEY
O'CONNOR
BELDEN
SOKOL
GIRARD
THOMAS

OTHERS PRESENT:

BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES/FIRE COORDINATOR
AMY MANNEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES
PATRICIA NENNINGER, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOANN MCKINSTRY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS: KENNY
PITKIN
STRAINER
TAYLOR
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. VanNess called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:31 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of the Public Safety Committee, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services/Fire Coordinator, who distributed copies of the Agenda to the Committee. A copy of the Agenda is on file with the minutes.

Mr. LaFlure commenced the Agenda review with the Pending Items listed. Pending Item 1, he advised, referred to an update on leasing indoor storage space for the hazardous materials (HAZMAT) vehicles. He apprised that he had submitted a counter offer to the individual who owned the prospective storage space in the City of Glens Falls and he anticipated receiving a reply from the property owner within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. LaFlure stated that it was essential that an indoor storage space be secured for the HAZMAT vehicles, as the Glens Falls Fire Department would be assuming responsibility of ambulance coverage for the City of Glens Falls within the next couple of months and would require the space for their own use. He said that the vehicles could be stored at the Municipal Center parking lot until the beginning of December; however, he noted, from that point forward it would be necessary for the vehicles to be stored indoors.

Mr. VanNess advised that he would inquire whether the property owner of a vacant garage located on Connecticut Avenue in the Town of Queensbury would be interested in leasing the space to the County if Mr. LaFlure was unable to reach an agreement with the prospective property owner in the

Mr. LaFlure noted that the ideal storage space was the storage space located in the City of Glens Falls due to the proximity of the HAZMAT crew which consisted of Glens Falls firefighters. He explained that the City of Glens Falls only charged the County for labor that was required when the HAZMAT Team responded to an incident. He pointed out that the City of Glens Falls did not charge the County for performing routine maintenance and inspections on the equipment, which could change if the vehicles were moved to a location outside the City limits.

Mr. LaFlure apprised that he felt he would be able to obtain a contract with the prospective property owner for approximately \$9,600 annually; however, he suggested, that in the future a short term lease be obtained, as he did not feel a long term lease was necessary.

With regards to Pending Item 2, Mr. LaFlure stated that there were no updates available at this time on the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator appointment.

Pending Item 3, Mr. LaFlure advised, referred to reviewing the proposed changes to Local Law No. 6 of 2007. He reminded the Committee that he had suggested at the prior Committee meeting that the STOP-DWI Program should be overseen by the Traffic Safety Board rather than the Office of Emergency Services (OES). He stated that the County Attorney's Office had drafted a resolution introducing Local Law No. 5 of 2009 to amend Local Law No. 6 of 2007 and set a Public Hearing for the November 20, 2009 Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request to introduce Local Law No. 5 of 2009 to amend Local Law No. 6 of 2007 and set a public hearing for the November 20, 2009 Board meeting. The necessary resolution was authorized for the October 16, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving along to new business, Mr. LaFlure apprised that in response to a request by the Budget Committee, he had supplied a listing of all the part-time employees within the OES. He explained that the entire OES Department consisted of part-time employees with the exception of the Deputy Director of the OES.

Mr. LaFlure stated that he was unsure of whether he should fill the vacant position of 3rd Deputy Emergency Services Coordinator (EMS), as the request had been tabled at the August 21, 2009 Board meeting and approved at the September 18, 2009 Board meeting. He noted that he did not have an issue delaying the filling of the position if the Committee so desired, as he did not want to go through the process of hiring a new employee only to have the position eliminated at a later date.

Mr. VanNess pointed out that it was necessary that the Committee take into consideration that if the position remained vacant the response time to incidents would be affected. Mr. O'Connor advised that he felt that it was imperative to fill the vacant position, as he felt that it was an essential position to aid with maintaining public safety within the County and it had a minimal effect on the Budget, as well.

It was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. LaFlure report back to the Committee with a recommendation for the 3rd Deputy EMS Coordinator.

With regards to the Emergency Services Training Center (ESTC), Mr. LaFlure apprised that it was necessary to request an extension for the Shared Services Grant with the Department of State, as he did not feel the required work would be completed by the March 31, 2010 deadline. He stated that he was actively seeking funds for the second phase of the project and had met with representatives for Congressman Murphy and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand; however, he said, they had informed him they were unable to include appropriations in this years budget.

Mr. Belden asked how long the extension would be and Mr. LaFlure replied that it would extend the grant from March 31, 2010 to March 31, 2011. He explained that the extension was necessary, as a provision of the Shared Services Grant was that the funds would not be awarded until construction of the ESTC had begun. He said he felt that he would be able to obtain the necessary funds to begin construction of the ESTC from the 2010 State appropriations, as well as from donations. Mr. VanNess pointed out that the ESTC had been designed to be built in phases as funds became available, to avoid expending County dollars.

Patricia Nenninger, Second Assistant County Attorney, interjected that a resolution would be necessary to amend Resolution No. 221 of 2008 to extend the Shared Services Grant with the Department of State for the ESTC commencing March 31, 2010 and terminating March 31, 2011.

Mr. O'Connor questioned if the proposed location would still be available when construction commenced and Mr. LaFlure replied affirmatively. Mr. LaFlure apprised that all of the required site approvals had been received and he was awaiting the receipt of additional funds prior to having the engineer begin a draft design of the buildings that would be located on the site.

Mr. LaFlure advised that he had received a letter from Dr. Ronald C. Heacock, President of Adirondack Community College (ACC), indicating ACC's commitment to partner with Warren and Washington Counties in the development and operation of the ESTC. He said that because the ESTC was being used for educational purposes other funding options would be available.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 221 of 2008 to extend the Shared Services Grant with the Department of State for the ESTC commencing March 31, 2010 and terminating March 31, 2011.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Girard, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist